(iii) Wherever feasible, rural areas within 15 KMs radius of towns with a population of one lakh and above.

(b) Based on the above criteria, 64 LPG distributorships in rural areas and 38 LPG distributorships in urban/rural areas have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Andhra Pradesh.

Misuse of Imported Kerosene

411. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether import of kerosene was allowed to be used as raw material;

(b) if so, the names of the agencies/ companies who were given such permission;

(c) the total quantity of kerosene imported for such use; and

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure the kerosene imported for raw-material was not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Kerosene imports have been decanalised and as per the export and import policy (1st April, 97—31st March 2002), imports of kerosene are allowed without any licence/restriction.

(c) Cumulatively, as on 31.10.1998, about 3891 TMT of Kerosene has been imported by various parties under parallel marketing scheme for sale under their own pricing and distribution network.

(d) In order to ensure that kerosene imported for use as raw material is not misused, Govt., vide Notification No. 67/98-customs dated 8th Sept., 98 on exemption of customs duty on kerosene imports by the manufacturers of linear alkyl benzene to extract N-Paraffin, authorised the respective Asstt. Commissioners of Central Excise to assess the quantity of imported kerosene actually consumed in the process of extraction of N-Paraffin and the quantity sold and supplied to M/s. IOCL.

Vide amended control order No. 410 dated 23.10.98, Govt. made it mandatory for the parallel marketeers to file end-use certificate from industrial customers to whom they sell kerosene and furnish customer-wise sales to the State Civil Supplies Authorities, on a quarterly basis.

HPCL pipeline between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada

412. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether the HPCL pipeline between Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada has become operational;

(b) if so, the cost incurred thus far;

(c) the new safety measures instituted;

(d) whether full compensation has been paid to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 452.31 crores till October, 1998.

(c) Safety measures for the pipeline are as follows:—

(i) The pipeline is provided externally with the coaltar enamel coating for protection from corrosion and further supplemented by impressed current cathodic protection system.

(ii) Supervisory control and data acquisition for gathering the operating parameters all along the length of the pipeline besides the leak detection system.